

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 SSO-00 SS-15 NSCE-00
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FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9935
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN NEW YORK 00828

FOR EMBASSY CAPE TOWN

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PORG, RH
SUBJECT: YOUNG LUNCH FOR ROBERT MUGABE MARCH 8

1. AT A LUNCH AT AMB YOUNG'S RESIDENCE MARCH 8,
PATRIOTIC FRONT CO-LAEDER ROBERT MUGABE SOUGHT
CLARIFICATION OF WHERE THE US STOOD REGARDING AN INTERNAL
SETTLEMENT IN RHODESIA. MUGABE ASKED WHY THE US HAD
APPARENTLY "BACKTRACKED" FROM THE ORIGINAL STATEMENT
MADE BY YOUNG. YOUNG AND MCHENRY SPELLED OUT THE FULL
CONTEXT OF THE STATE DEPARTMENT'S STATEMENT ON THE
INTERNAL SETTLEMENT AND REASSURED MUGABE THAT THE US
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REMAINED COMMITTED TO THE ANGLO-AMERICAN PLAN (AAP) AS
THE BEST BASIS FOR A SETTLEMENT. IN THAT CONTEXT,
THE US NEITHER ENDORSED NOR CONDEMNED THE SETTLEMENT.
THE AAP, HOWEVER, CONSTITUTED THE STANDARD AGAINST
WHICH ALL SETTLEMENT EFFORTS SHOULD BE MEASURED.

2. MUGABE SAID THAT HIS AIMS IN THE PRESENT SECURITY

COUNCIL SESSION ON RHODESIA WERE TWO: (A) A SC REJECTION OF THE INTERNAL SETTLEMENT AND (B) A SC ENDORSEMENT OF THE AAP. IN PARTICULAR, MUGABE WANTED EVIDENCE OF CONTINUING UK AND US COMMITMENT TO THE AAP. MUGABE HAD BEEN "ASTOUNDED" AT MALTA BY DAVID OWEN'S REFUSAL UNEQUIVOCALLY TO ENDORSE HIS OWN PLAN.

3. MUGABE AND HIS ADVISORS ARGUED STRONGLY AGAINST AN INVITATION TO MUZOREWA TO SPEAK BEFORE THE COUNCIL. THEIR VIEW WAS THAT MUZOREWA COULD NO LONGER SPEAK AS HEAD OF THE UANC. HE WAS NOW AN AGENT OF SMITH AND HE COULD SPEAK ONLY FOR THE SMITH REGIME OF WHICH HE WAS NOW A PART. MUGABE'S IMMEDIATE CONCERN WAS THAT A MUZOREWA STATEMENT WOULD BE PLAYED UP IN THE RHODESIA PRESS BUT PUBLICATION OF PATRIOTIC FRONT SPEECHES WOULD BE BANNED IN RHODESIA. SMITH WOULD CAPITALIZE ON THE APPARENT RECOGNITION BY UN. THE NET EFFECT WOULD BE AN INTERNAL POLITICAL PLUS FOR THE BISHOP. YOUNG, MCHENRY AND AIDES COUNTERED THAT REFUSAL OF PERMISSION COULD MAKE MUZOREWA A MARTYR, AT LEAST IN THE US PRESS, AND COULD DRIVE HIM FURTHER INTO SMITH'S ARMS. MUZOREWA SHOULD NOT BE WRITTEN OFF. MUCH COULD HAPPEN IN THE COMING MONTHS AND IT WAS NOT WISE TO TREAT MUZOREWA AS BEYOND REDEMPTION.

4. IN RESPONSE TO AMB YOUNG'S PROBINGS ON POSSIBILITY
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OF CONFERENCE INCLUDING MUGABE, NKOMO OR MUZOREWA, OR SOME SORT OF "PROXIMITY" TALKS, MUGABE SAID HE "WOULD HAVE TO THINK ABOUT THAT." HIS GENERAL ATTITUDE, HOWEVER, DID NOT INDICATE RECEPTIVITY TO TALKING WITH MUZOREWA.
YOUNG

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